

ARTICLE ALERT

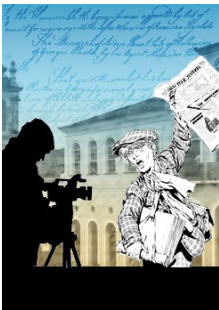


INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 5, May 2009

Copies of the articles listed in Article Alert are available from the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta. Should you wish to receive a photocopy of an article, please complete the ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM (page 4) and return it to us. We will mail or fax the requested articles directly to you at no cost.

World Press Freedom Day 2009



Source: <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/press/>

May 3rd marks the annual commemoration of World Press Freedom Day. The United States values freedom of the press as a key component of democratic governance. Democratic societies are not infallible, but they are accountable, and the exchange of ideas is the foundation for accountable governance.

In the U.S. and in many places around the world, the press fosters active debate, provides investigative reporting, and serves as a forum to express different points of view, particularly on behalf of those who are marginalized in society. The U.S. commends journalists around the world for the important role they play, and for their commitment to the free exchange of ideas.

The U.S. in particular salutes those in the press who courageously do their work at great risk. In some countries, the press is often a target of retaliation by those who feel threatened by freedom of expression and transparency in democratic processes. Journalists are often the

first to uncover corruption, to report from the front lines of conflict zones, and to highlight missteps by governments. This work places many journalists in danger, and it is the duty of governments and citizens worldwide to speak out for their protection and for their vital role in open societies.

Statement by President Obama to Mark World Press Freedom Day lends his support, admiration to men, women who labor to expose the truth.

Link:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office



Journalists and free-speech advocates share their views on the importance of press freedom and the challenges facing journalists worldwide.

For details please visit:

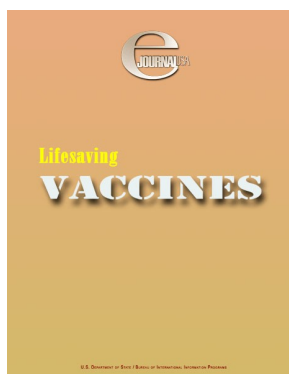
<http://www.america.gov/journalism-siege.html>

About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

Lifesaving Vaccines



May 2009— Vaccines can prevent disease, prolong life, and eradicate scourges dating to prehistory. Knowledge of vaccine effectiveness is decades old, but children in developing nations are still dying from vaccine preventable diseases. The United States and international partners have been working together for more than 30 years to expand the benefits of vaccines to children everywhere.

Source: March 2007 eJournal USA, "Lifesaving Vaccines"

You can download full text of the journal from:

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0307.html>

Inside this issue:

World Press Freedom	P. 1
New e-journal	P. 1
Democracy and Global Issues	P. 2
Economic Security	P. 2
International Security	P. 3
U.S. Society and Values	P. 3

ARTICLE ALERT

Democracy and Global Issues

The First 100 Days: New American Engagement for the 21st Century

By: James L. Jones,
U.S. National Security
Advisor

During the first 100 days of his administration, President Obama has already demonstrated to the world what a new American engagement will look like.

For details:

http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/press_rel/April09/op_100d.html

For Bahasa Indonesia:

http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/bhs/siaran-pers/April09/op_100d_id.html

1. Inglehart, Ronald; Welzel, Christian **WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT MODERNIZATION**

(Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 2, March-April 2009)

The authors write that, although democracies are in retreat in some developing countries, evidence shows that over time democracy emerges from modernization. Modernization does not go on indefinitely; each phase of modernization effects some changes to people's world views. It does not weaken religious and ethnic traditions or lead to westernization. Nor does it lead to democracy automatically; democracy emerges as highly educated people increasingly think for themselves and change their behavior. At some point democracy becomes hard to avoid "because repressing mass demands for more open societies becomes increasingly costly and detrimental to economic effectiveness." Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64821/ronald-inglehart-and-christian-welzel/how-development-leads-to-democracy?page=show>

2. Sennot, Charles M. **ROLL THE DICE: HOW ONE JOURNALIST GAMBLER ON THE FUTURE OF NEWS**

(Columbia Journalism Review, March-April 2009)

Sennot, a former Boston Globe correspondent, writes of his transition from being a traditional print journalist to co-founding GlobalPost.com, an online "collaborative" foreign news agency that has attracted major journalists who write on a freelance basis for modest stipend and shares in the company. "It is an exciting time, a historic shift in how the world will be informed," Sennot writes. He is currently GlobalPost.com's executive editor. Currently available online at http://www.cjr.org/cover_story/roll_the_dice.php?page=all

3. Brown, Lester **COULD FOOD SHORTAGES BRING DOWN CIVILIZATION?**

(Scientific American, May 2009)

The author writes that the biggest threat to global stability is the potential for food crises in poor countries to cause government collapse. Food scarcity and the resulting higher food prices are pushing poor countries into chaos. Water shortages, soil erosion and rising temperatures from global warming are placing severe limits on food production. Without massive and rapid intervention to address these three environmental factors, the author argues, a series of government collapses could threaten the world order. Currently available online at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=civilization-food-shortages&page=5>

Map of Press Freedom 2008

Free or Not Free

Freedom House, a nonprofit organization and voice for democracy around the world, analyzes of the status of press freedom in nations through out the world

Link:

http://www.freedomhouse.org/uploads/fop08/MOPF_final.pdf

Economic Issues

4. ASIA'S NEXT CHALLENGE: SECURING THE REGION'S WATER FUTURE

(Asia Society, April 2009)

One-sixth of the world's population currently does not have good access to safe water and half of all countries could have water shortages by 2025, according the UN. In this report, an international group of leaders from academia, government and the private sector convened by the Asia Society urges countries to take more action to avert a world "water crisis." With climate change and a growing world population, the water supply is becoming more and more uncertain. It wants governments to give incentives to encourage investing in water management technologies. Online link to report

available at

http://www.asiasociety.org/resources/090417_watertaskforce.html

5. Bertini, Catherine; Glickman, Dan **FARM FUTURES**

(Foreign Affairs, Vol. 88, No. 3, May/June 2009, pp. 93-105)

The U.S. should make agricultural development its top foreign aid priority and get other international donors to do the same, say Bertini, a former head of the United Nations World Food Program, and Glickman, a former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. They say chronic hunger, which now affects nearly 1 billion people around the world, is a national security threat. The authors call for the U.S. Congress to pass the Lugar-Casey Global

Economic Issues continued...

Food Security Act to boost funds for agricultural research and education. They want the Congress to change policies that currently give preference to U.S. carriers transporting aid, and call for the United States to consolidate the administration of U.S. food aid programs under one agency. Currently available online at <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/FA.pdf>

6. Johnson, Simon **THE QUIET COUP** (Atlantic, May 2009)

Johnson, former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, writes that the Obama

administration is unlikely to reform the U.S. financial system because his top economic advisers have been recruited from the leading investment banks, the very institutions in need of reform. Without thorough banking reform, the author said that the world risks going into an economic slump worse than the Great Depression. "We face a synchronized downturn in almost all countries, a weakening of confidence among individuals and firms, and major problems for government finances," Johnson writes. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200905/imf-advice>

International Security

7. Betts, Richard K. **THE THREE FACES OF NATO** (National Interest, no. 100, March-April, 2009)

Betts, an adjunct senior fellow for national-security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, writes that NATO is facing an identity crisis. Is it a club for democracies or a means

for fighting offensive wars? He argues that without a serious rethink of NATO's fundamental purpose, the alliance could well come apart and create conflict with the former Soviet Union in the process. Currently available online at <http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=20944>

U.S. Society and Values

8. Bedord, Jean **EBOOKS HIT CRITICAL MASS: WHERE DO LIBRARIES FIT WITH OPRAH?** (Online, vol. 33, no. 3, May/June 2009, pp. 14-17)

The earliest eBooks were large, bulky contraptions that looked like thick binders. Since then, readers have shrunk to the size of a thin paperback, more titles are available (now a major key to the success of eBooks), and the term "eBook" is now part of the general lexicon. Much of the credit for this change goes to television celebrity Oprah Winfrey's endorsement of the Amazon Kindle, which did much to change the mind-set for both readers and publishers, plus infrastructure changes that created larger inventories of book titles. When eBooks first launched, there were less than 10,000 titles available. In contrast, present users (thanks to Kindle) have 230,000 titles. Overdrive claims more than 150,000 titles; NetLibrary has over 180,000 titles while Google has just announced

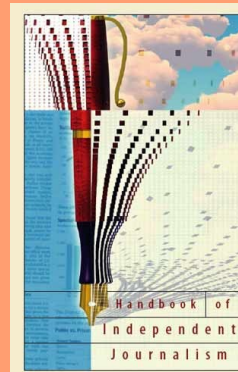
the availability of more than 1,5 million public domain books for the iPhone and the Android-based Gl.

9. Wollman, Dana **IS TECHNOLOGY TEARING APART FAMILY LIFE?** (Laptop, March 2009, pp. 92-97)

The author notes that text messaging, social networking and online video are changing the dynamics between parents and children; technology today is the new "rock-and-roll", with the older generation trying to make sense of it, if not openly embrace it. Some believe that social networking will improve family interaction, while others argue that the new technology threatens to rip apart not just family unity but the fabric of society itself, as more individuals communicate only through their high-tech devices, decreasing the amount of time they actually interact on a personal level. Currently available online at <http://www.laptopmag.com/mobile-life/is-technology-tearing-apart-family-life.aspx>

E-Book

Handbook of Independent Journalism



This handbook covers the ins and outs of what every professional journalist should know — from how to research, write, and edit a story to how to write headlines, choose graphics, and select quotes and sound bites. Print, radio, TV, and Web-based or online journalism forms are discussed in detail, as well as the skills required in beat reporting.

Full Text:
<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/handbook-of-independent-journalism.html>

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1. () WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT MODERNIZATION
2. () ROLL THE DICE
3. () COULD FOOD SHORTAGES BRING DOWN CIVILIZATION?
4. () ASIA'S NEXT CHALLENGE
5. () FARM FUTURES
6. () THE QUIET COUP
7. () THE THREE FACES OF NATO
8. () EBOOKS HIT CRITICAL MASS
9. () IS TECHNOLOGY TEARING APART FAMILY LIFE?

Special Offers:

- () Lifesaving Vaccines (see page 1)
- () Handbook of Independent Journalism (page 3)

What You Need To Know About H1N1 FLU

From the pages of AMERICA.GOV, United States Department of State / Bureau of International Information Programs. Compilation of 4 articles from America.gov on H1N1 related topics.

Link:

http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/archives/h1n1_flu.pdf#popup [PDF file]

Tracking the H1N1 Flu Pandemic

Learn more about how international organizations are working together to respond to outbreaks of a new strain of a H1N1 virus initially referred to as swine flu.

Link: http://www.america.gov/h1n1_flu.html

CDC Website Info on H1N1 Flu Pandemic

This page contains background information about swine influenza. For information about the current outbreak of novel H1N1 flu, see the CDC H1N1 Flu website.

Link: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

